

Appl. No.: 10/585,179  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/29/2009

REMARKS

In regard to the objection to the disclosure (page 5) and the drawings mentioned on page 2 of the office action, the description at page 5 has been amended to overcome the objections.

Claim 1 has also been amended to include the feature of the sheet being configured such that it wants to return to the flat configuration were it not held in the folded configuration. Support for this amendment can be derived from page 6, lines 9 to 11 of the specification.

Claim 9 has now been amended to define that the sheet is configured to allow it to be bendable back on itself. We believe that the meaning of this term is adequately clear (see, for example, page 5, lines 26-27) and refers to a property of the sheet which allows it to bend to such a degree that it can be folded that its opposing ends no longer face substantially away from another (one extreme being a 'U' shape configuration, see new Claim 29).

You will note that some of the dependent claims have been amended to clearly relate to properties of the cover ("configured to") and states (e.g. folded/unfolded) of the cover.

We have also corrected Claim 19 to remove the extra repetition of "actuators".

Claim 22 has been amended to a method of distributing a cover according to Claim 1, comprising providing the cover in an

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unfolded configuration, and distributing with cover along with a printed publication.

Basis for new Claims 27 and 28 is from page 7 lines 15-17. Basis for new Claims 29 and 30 is from page 7 lines 19-21 and page 7 lines 10-13 respectively. These provide dependent claims for important sub-features of the present invention. These should also aid understanding of the scope of the corresponding independent claim.

Claim 31 is a new method claim and takes support from Claim 1. This claim is directed towards the act of covering the device with the claimed cover. We believe that both Claim 31 and Claim 22 are allowable within the same application. However, if you consider that this is not the case, please let us know and we can consider removing Claim 31.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 15, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jensfelt (US 6,330,430). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensfelt (US 6,330,430). Claims 14, 16-19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensfelt (US 6,330,430) in view of Buesseler et al. (US 2003/0036362 A1). Claims 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensfelt (US 6,330,430) in view of Nagashima (JP 2000/299722 A). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Jensfelt discloses a case for a mobile phone. The case is formed with fasteners so as to secure the case around a mobile device. The case as disclosed is best shown in Figure 4 of Jensfelt.

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In contrast, the present invention discloses a cover for a mobile phone. The cover of the present application is provided from a sheet of "resilient" material, in that it has a desire to return to a flat unfolded configuration when not being held (see Claim 1). There is no teaching in the prior art of using the resilient property of a material in providing a cover that wants to return to a flat configuration were it not held in a folded configuration as claimed.

We therefore submit that the present independently claimed invention is novel over the teaching of the prior art by at least this feature.

With regard to non-obviousness and inventive step, we consider that the present independently claimed invention is not obvious from the teaching of the prior art.

Firstly, we can see no direction in the prior art to provide for a resilient cover made from a sheet of material that is configured in the claimed manner. Therefore, we cannot see how the features of the independently claimed invention could be arrived at from the teaching of the prior art, in particular *Jensfelt*.

With regard to the other prior art documents, we consider that they do not disclose features that would or could be taken in combination with the teaching of *Jensfelt* to arrive at the present claimed invention.

*Pan* (US 2004/0,180,706) describes an exchangeable décor panel for a portable cellular phone. The panel is made of a flexible material but is made to be rigid (i.e. inflexible and

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non-resilient) using rigid plates 3 & 4 (see Fig. 4). The panel does not comprise a flat and folded configuration, nor is it configured to want to return to the flat configuration as claimed.

EP 1,301,011 describes a user-changeable electronic device/mobile phone cover. Figure 2 shows a preformed casing (i.e. not a cover) that is formed of two halves to encase a mobile phone. Whilst partly resilient, they do not comprise a flat and folded configuration, nor is it configured to want to return to the flat configuration as claimed.

JP 2000/299,722 appears to illustrate a cover that is like an adhesive face that can be attached to a device such as a mobile phone (see Fig. 1-6). However, it does not appear to have a flat and folded configuration, nor to be configured to want to return to the flat configuration as claimed.

Buessler (US 2003/0,036,362) describes an interchangeable cover for a mobile communications device that includes a resilient three sided semi-rigid shell having a substantially U-shaped profile adapted to wrap around a portion of the device (see Fig. 1A-1E). However, it does not appear to describe a cover that has a flat and folded configuration, as it always appears to be semi-rigidly maintained in the shown U-shape profile. The described cover also does not appear to be configured to want to return to the flat configuration as claimed.

WO 2004/066,640 appears to be directed towards interchangeable covering additions to a mobile communication device for display and key reorientation. This document appears to be

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directed towards effecting changes to the operation of the device by attaching different covers. It does not appear to provide for a resilient cover as claimed, that has a flat and a folded configuration, configured such that it wants to return to the flat configuration as claimed.

We submit that none of these documents describe the features of the present claimed invention, whether taken individually or even in combination with *Jensfelt*.

Secondly, we submit that the claimed invention provides for distinct advantages not achieved by any of the prior art documents. The independently claimed invention advantageously uses the resilient property of a sheet of material to provide a cover which, for transport, would be substantially flat (extending in one plane) or can be reeled. However, in use, it can be folded to extend in more than one plane and thus cover more than one face of the electronic device. We can see no direction in the prior art to use such a resilient material to provide such a cover for an electronic device.

Additionally, the Examiner will appreciate that there is no requirement for fasteners in the present independent claims, unlike *Jensfelt*. The Examiner will also appreciate that such a resilient cover does not necessarily require fold lines, or intended crease lines to be imparted into the cover during manufacture (although they can/may be provided - see dependent claims).

The Examiner will appreciate that the present application therefore provides a cover that is not only easy and comparatively cheap to manufacture and cheap to distribute,

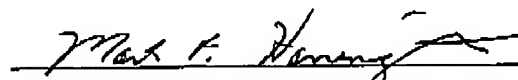
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but also easy to use. Advantages are given on page 7, lines 4 to 8 of the specification. Such a cover is neither taught, nor suggested by Jensfelt or any of the other prior art documents whether taken individually or in combination.

In view of these distinct advantages, we submit that the present claimed invention should be considered non-obvious from the teaching of the prior art, and that it clearly demonstrates an inventive step over these documents.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686)

8/20/09  
Date

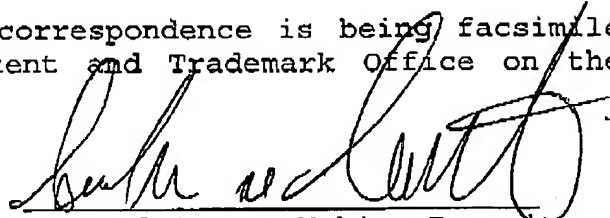
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